

Amendments to the Abstract

Please amend the abstract at page 59 as follows.

~~This invention relates to a~~ A printing method and printing apparatus ~~capable of printing can print~~ a high-quality image free from any visual graininess by reducing density unevenness and color unevenness. In printing by discharging ink from a printhead onto a printing medium, the printing apparatus executes either one of (A) ~~the~~ a first printing operation mode in which one dot layout pattern is assigned to a plurality of pixels at the same gradation level and printing is done on the basis of the assigned dot layout pattern, or (B) ~~the~~ a second printing operation mode in which plural types of dot layout patterns are assigned to a plurality of pixels at the same gradation level and printing is done on the basis of the assigned dot layout patterns.